

IN RE:

15-3081

Statement of: Sergeant Andrew Spragg, ID#159

Taken by: Detective Phifel, ID#9585

Audio file: Sergeant Andrew Spragg interview

November 16

(00:07:24) hours, minutes, seconds

DP = Detective Phifel

SS = Sergeant Spragg

Transcribed by:
Marsha Travis, FPR
Florida Professional Reporter

1 (Beginning of recording.)

2 DP: This is Detective Phifel, ID 9585. It is
3 November --

4 SS: Sixteenth.

5 DP: Sixteenth. The time in 16:21 hours. I
6 am in the Palm Beach Gardens Police Department, and
7 with me is Sergeant Spragg, ID number?

8 SS: 159.

9 DP: 159. We are here because when I first
10 took your initial statement the day of the
11 incident, the officer-involved shooting with
12 Officer Raja, I forgot to swear you in. So I'm
13 just going to have you listen to your statement
14 that we took that day, and after the end if you
15 could just -- we'll go over if everything's true
16 and all of that.

17 SS: Very well.

18 (Audiotape being played.)

19 SS: "Um, a little bit after 3 a.m. in the
20 morning, we were at the Marriott Hotel at the Lux
21 Nightclub on a disturbance call. An alert tone
22 came out over dispatch that there was an
23 officer-involved shooting at the PGA exit ramp from
24 95 southbound to PGA Boulevard involving Officer
25 Raja, which is our unit Alpha One. I was near the

1 exit of the hotel and was able to respond
2 immediately to the scene. Officer Raja had
3 previously radioed that he had observed a
4 suspicious vehicle on the exit ramp and that he was
5 going to attempt to make contact with the vehicle.

6 "As we were responding to the scene, dispatch
7 was given additional information pertaining to the
8 suspect that may have fled on foot. Officer Raja
9 then, as I arrived, came on his radio and advised
10 that the subject had fled north in the ditch along
11 the exit ramp.

12 "I arrived on scene. I observed Officer
13 Raja's unmarked undercover van parked at the front
14 of a tan or gray colored Hyundai SUV, and Officer
15 Raja directed me and pointed me northward. Officer
16 Arlotta and myself, using my vehicle as cover,
17 proceeded north up the ramp. At the same time, I
18 ordered units to come south from the north end of
19 the city to set up a perimeter point at the north
20 and block traffic exiting that may attempt to exit
21 onto PGA Boulevard, block the southbound traffic.

22 "Approximately 80 yards north, I stopped my
23 vehicle and used it as cover while I established a
24 perimeter from the east parking lot of the
25 Doubletree Hotel to the south end of the exit ramp

1 to the north end of the exit ramp. Once we
2 believed we had the subject contained in that area,
3 Sergeant Anderson responded with a ballistics
4 shield and we begin a physical search.

5 "Almost immediately we identified what
6 appeared to be the subject laying on the ground
7 face down with his head facing east and his feet to
8 the west along the ditch embankment of the exit
9 ramp. Sergeant Anderson, Officer Raja, myself and
10 Sergeant Mohl approached the body, approached the
11 subject, who had his arms, both arms underneath
12 him, he was laying face down. We pulled his arms
13 from underneath him to make sure there was no
14 firearm. We then rolled the body to the south and
15 did a cursory search to make sure there was no
16 firearm around the body.

17 "As units were arriving, we secured the scene.
18 We had EMS respond to pronounce the subject. Once
19 the scene was secure, I called for a canine to do
20 an article search based on Officer Raja advising me
21 he believed the subject had thrown a silver colored
22 handgun in the tall grass near the rear of the
23 suspect's vehicle. Canine Officer Pierce responded
24 and almost immediately located a silver colored
25 handgun, which we marked with cones. In addition

1 to that, we observed six shell casings on the exit
2 ramp to go westbound that we covered with cones.

3 "From that point forward, we established a
4 crime scene log, contacted administration, state
5 attorney's office, et cetera, et cetera, et cetera.

6 DP: "Okay. If you could just go through the
7 people, all the officers and sergeants on scene
8 when you were locating the body. Originally it was
9 just you and Officer Arlotta you said?

10 SS: "No, um, I misspoke earlier. Um, Officer
11 Arlotta had gone back to get our armored vehicle.
12 He had left.

13 DP: "Okay.

14 SS: "So the actual four, the four of us that
15 actually approached the body, located and
16 approached the body, were Sergeant Anderson.

17 DP: "Okay.

18 SS: "Sergeant Mohl.

19 DP: "Okay.

20 SS: "Officer Raja and myself.

21 DP: "All right.

22 SS: "And earlier, in the prelim walk
23 throughout, I had misspoke on those names.

24 DP: "That's fine. I was just -- I just
25 didn't get them all earlier when you were saying

1 them. I just couldn't write it all down fast
2 enough.

3 SS: "Good, 'cause they weren't right.

4 DP: "Huh?

5 SS: "Good, because they weren't correct.

6 DP: "All right. And then canine officer
7 arrived on scene and he's the one that located the
8 gun. Was the gun moved or anything?

9 SS: "No.

10 DP: "No? Okay. All right. Other than what
11 you said, is there anything else you can think of
12 that may help with the investigation that we should
13 look into, someone we should speak to?

14 SS: "I don't believe so.

15 DP: "Okay. This interview is concluded at
16 7:14 hours."

17 (End of audio recording.)

18 DP: Okay. Now that you've had a chance to
19 listen to your statement in its entirety, can you
20 raise your right hand? Do you swear everything in
21 that statement was the truth to the best of your
22 knowledge?

23 SS: I do.

24 DP: Okay. Thank you. This interview is
25 concluded at 16:28 hours.

1 (End of recording.)
2 *****
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25


1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

CERTIFICATE

STATE OF FLORIDA)
COUNTY OF PALM BEACH)

I, Marsha E. Travis, Florida Professional
Reporter and Notary Public, certify that I did listen to
and transcribed the foregoing recorded proceedings, and
that the transcript is a true record to the best of my
ability.

Dated this 10th day of APRIL, 2016.



MARSHA E. TRAVIS, FPR
Florida Professional Reporter

--	--	--	--